

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

THOMAS A. EAMES, ROBERTA L.  
EAMES, and TAMMY EAMES, on behalf  
of themselves and all others similarly  
situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

NATIONWIDE MUTUAL INSURANCE  
COMPANY,

Defendant.

Civil Action No. 04-1324-\*\*\*

**ORDER**

WHEREAS, this matter has been assigned to the judicial vacancy created by the elevation of the Honorable Kent A. Jordan to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit; and

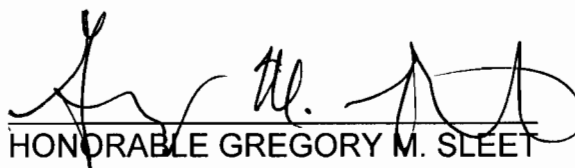
WHEREAS, pursuant to this Court's Standing Orders of December 14, 2006 and June 29, 2007, this matter has been referred for pre-trial management to United States Magistrate Judge Mary Pat Thyng; and

WHEREAS, it is the goal of the Court to ensure a reasonable and fair allocation of assignments among the Court's two Magistrate Judges, consistent with the challenges facing the Court at any given time;

NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

This matter is to remain assigned to the vacant judgeship but is hereby referred for pre-trial management to United States Magistrate Judge Leonard P. Stark. The

reference to Judge Stark includes, but is not limited to, exploring the possibility of the parties' consenting to Magistrate Judge jurisdiction, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636, and, absent consent, preparing a report and recommendation relating to any or all case-dispositive motions.



HONORABLE GREGORY M. SLEET

Date: Dec. 3, 2007